

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Tool: Supervision of Visits	Effective Date: June 1, 2008
	Reference: 8.C (8.13 Implementing the Visitation Plan)	Version: 1

How Much Supervision and Why?

The level and frequency of supervision required for visitation and how the supervision is handled will depend on the purposes for which it is required. Supervision of visits should be consistent with identified case issues and supportive of case goals. Some of the major purposes of supervision are:

1. Protective: The FCM has reason to believe that the
 - a. Parent/guardian/custodian, sibling, or others are likely to physically or emotionally harm the child during the visit; or
 - b. Parent/guardian/custodian or others are likely to flee from the visit with the child.
2. Assessment: The FCM needs to observe and document the interactions between the parent/guardian/custodian and the child. This is necessary for evaluating progress in meeting Case Plan and permanency goals, modifying the Case Plan and Visitation Plan, and ultimately determining if the child can safely return home.
3. Support and Treatment: Through supervision, the FCM can support the building of a mutually satisfying relationship between parent and child. Supervised visits can also play a role in family treatment, especially when it involves teaching skills to parents. During visits, FCMs, substitute caregivers, therapists and other professionals can teach child care and demonstrate ways of setting and enforcing limits. They can help parents and children develop better ways of interacting and communicating.

Who Should Supervise?

Supervision of visits may be provided by a variety of persons depending upon the situation. Appropriate persons include the FCM, a foster parent, relative, service provider, facility staff, CASA, GAL or another appropriate adult. Regardless of who supervises, information about the visit should be placed in a visitation record or log, including: date, time and location of visit; names of persons in attendance; detailed examples of parent/guardian/custodian's and the child's behaviors (positive and negative) during the visit; and a summary of any activities that took place. Missed visits should also be documented including reasons why, if known.

Progressively Decreased Supervision

Initially, most visits are fully supervised (the person supervising is in the room at all times) to assure child safety and in order for the FCM to assess the parent/guardian/custodian's strengths and weaknesses as it relates to adequate parenting. As visitation progresses, visits may transition to intermittently supervised (the supervising person need not be in same room as visitors at all times). Finally, visits may progress to unsupervised arrangements.